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Courthouse Named for Judge Browning

In honor of the distinguished service of Judge James R. Browning, I was proud to sponsor legislation which passed the Congress naming the U.S. Courthouse located at 95 Seventh Street in San Francisco as the “James R. Browning United States Courthouse.”

Judge Browning, appointed to the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy, is the longest serving judge in the history of the Ninth Circuit.

Judge Browning stepped down as Chief Judge in 1988 but did not retire, remaining an active circuit judge and a member of myriad committees and judicial groups until he took senior status in September 2000. His innovations have been adopted by other circuit courts, and his achievements have been recognized with several prestigious awards. It is fitting that his many achievements have been honored by naming this building in his honor.

In Our Hands - Increasing Latino Civic Participation



Rep. Pelosi meets with San Francisco City Treasurer Jose Cisneros, her representative at the Hispanic Leadership Summit.

This fall, Democrats hosted the 5th Annual Hispanic Leadership Summit on Capitol Hill. The theme of the summit was “In Our Hands - Increasing Latino Civic Participation,” and it was attended by more than 170 Hispanic community leaders from across the country. The attendees discussed ways to encourage more Latinos to vote, to seek public office, and to be active in their communities.

The Members of Congress also released a new report describing how Hispanic Americans have fared in the last four years and outlining proposals to lift the lives of Hispanic families. The report was based in the belief that we can give everyone in this nation - whether they have been here for four centuries or four days - the opportunity to realize the American dream.

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Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi

Washington Update

January 2005

Dear Friend,

Throughout our nation’s history, hope and optimism have always defined the American spirit. Every generation has struggled to leave our children an America that is stronger and more secure than the one left to us. That is our inheritance, and it must also be our commitment to the future.

House Democrats are determined to strengthen the middle class that is the heart of our democracy, and this fall we put that commitment in writing. Our plan, the New Partnership for America’s Future, reaffirms our commitment to six core values for a strong and secure middle class: national security, prosperity, fairness, opportunity, community and accountability.

In the 109th Congress, the New Partnership will be the foundation of our legislative agenda. We will build on the historic Democratic unity of the 108th Congress, when we were more unified than at any time since 1960. And we will continue to put forward initiatives that have clarity, credibility, and consensus.

We will also fight to reform the processes of the “The People’s House.” During the 108th Congress, the Republican leadership repeatedly required Members to vote on massive bills on the same day the bills were finished, preventing the opportunity to read the legislation before voting on it. Because of this approach, Members of Congress had to come back into session to fix a provision that was inserted into a year-end spending bill that would have allowed the Chairmen of the Appropriations Committees and their staff to have access to individual taxpayer’s records. Also inserted into the bill was an anti-choice provision that allows health care companies who receive federal funds to essentially ignore Roe v. Wade. Please be assured that I will fight to repeal this harmful provision which endangers women’s health.

It is my privilege to serve you in Congress. I look forward to hearing from you on these and other issues of concern to you.

Best wishes to you and your family for a peaceful and prosperous new year.

Sincerely,

Nancy



In August, Rep. Pelosi was honored in Chinatown by Chinese-American leaders for her service in Congress. Pictured left to right are Chinese Consolidated Women’s Association Members: Cindy Zheng, Grace Chen, Amy Chuang, Margaret Lim, Yvonne Lee, Rep. Pelosi, Commissioner Mae C. Woo, Sophia Sun and Hung Jing Lum.

9/11 Intelligence Reform Bill Will Help Protect America

After months of delay by House Republicans, the Congress finally passed legislation that will help protect America and all Americans. The intelligence reform bill, based on the unanimous, bipartisan recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, passed the House and Senate overwhelmingly in December.

This legislation will make the American people safer by overhauling our intelligence agencies; improving aviation, border, and maritime security; and facilitating the work of police, fire fighters, and other emergency responders. Perhaps most critically, it will also create a Director of National Intelligence to oversee the intelligence community.

The 9/11 Commission also recommended the establishment of a strong civil liberties board, because as we protect and defend the American people from terrorism we must also protect and defend the Constitution and the civil liberties contained therein. As the bill was drafted, and when it was considered on the House floor, I spoke out in favor of the kind of robust board the Commission favored. The board created by the bill, however, is not as strong as it could have been. If its operation makes clear that the board needs additional authorities, I will not hesitate to fight for them.

Thankfully, the worst of the extraneous provisions on immigration and law enforcement that were in the House bill have been removed. The House majority leadership must not tarnish this achievement by agreeing to vote in the next Congress on ill-advised changes to our immigration laws.

This legislation, although not perfect, strengthens the process by which we manage the collection, processing, and dissemination of intelligence. In so doing, it reduces risk to the American people. It honors the work of the 9/11 Commission. And it hopefully will bring some comfort to the families of the victims of the 9/11 attacks. We owe them - and all of the American people - at least this much.

Preserving the Social Security Safety Net

President Bush has expressed his intent to restructure Social Security into a system in which a portion of the Social Security payroll taxes will go into private accounts, rather than the Social Security Trust Fund.

My Democratic colleagues and I believe that Social Security is a crucial safety net that is facing a manageable challenge, not a crisis. Without any changes, Social Security will be fully solvent for 50 years, and even after that it will continue to be able to pay 80 percent of benefits. Privatizing Social Security, however, will drain a significant amount of funding from the Trust Funds, force cuts in current and future benefits, and increase our already high deficits.

The fight to preserve Social Security for all Americans will be one of our highest priorities in the 109th Congress. I look forward to hearing your comments and concerns on this critical issue.

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Investing in the San Francisco Bay Area

As your Representative in Congress, I continue to fight for priorities in the budget that enhance the lives of residents and visitors to San Francisco.



I was proud to include funding that will benefit San Franciscans and the entire Bay Area. This money will help provide public health services, address the need for affordable housing and homelessness programs, prevent violence in our communities, improve education for our children and job training for displaced workers, upgrade our transportation and public transit infrastructure, and support our magnificent cultural institutions and national parks. The following are just a sample of projects that were funded in fiscal year 2005 to meet the needs of San Franciscans, improve local infrastructure, and improve the civic life of our City:

On December 13th, Rep. Pelosi spoke with children participating in the Bayview Hunters Point Health and Environmental Resource Center asthma open house about the importance of asthma screening.

Highlights of Additional Funding for San Francisco and the Bay Area

Health and Housing

- \$1.5 million to enhance San Francisco's system of HIV care and related services for persons of color and women living with HIV/AIDS or at risk of HIV infection;
- \$3.2 million for City housing and homelessness programs;
- \$500,000 for the UCSF Children's Hospital Mothers' and Children's Birth Defects Center;
- \$350,000 for the San Francisco State University Minority Nurse Training Program; and
- \$150,000 for Bayview Hunters Point Health and Environmental Resource Center.

Law Enforcement and Violence Prevention

- \$1.5 million for the Family Violence Prevention Fund in San Francisco to create an International Center to End Violence;
- \$450,000 to help the San Francisco District Attorney implement "Safe Streets" gun violence prevention efforts;
- \$750,000 for the Bay Area Youth Violence Prevention Network, an integrated violence prevention plan that links city government departments with each other, and with Oakland and neighboring cities;
- \$1 million to upgrade the SF Police Department Records Management System; and
- \$750,000 for the California Attorney General's statewide "California Safe from the Start: Reducing Children's Exposure to Violence" program.

Education and Training

- \$2.1 million for the University of San Francisco Center for Science and the Environment;
- \$400,000 for Charity Cultural Services Center: Skills for Life Program for Asian Immigrants;
- \$250,000 for the Exploratorium Museum to develop after-school programs;
- \$250,000 to help establish the City Arts and Technology Public Charter High School; and
- \$200,000 for the UC Hastings College of Law Center for Gender and Refugee Studies.

Transportation and Infrastructure

- \$100 million for the BART to SFO extension;
- \$10 million to extend the Third Street Light Rail line currently under construction into San Francisco's Chinatown District;
- \$5 million for the seismic retrofit of the Golden Gate Bridge;
- \$1 million for the Van Ness Avenue Improvements Project;
- \$1 million for the Doyle Drive Replacement Project;
- \$1 million for the San Francisco International Airport Surface Incident Prevention System to help secure SFO's perimeter; and
- \$1 million water and wastewater improvements to allow for the closure of Hunters Point Power Plant.

Cultural Institutions and National Parks

- \$20 million for the Presidio Trust to transform the former army base into a national park and achieve financial self-sufficiency;
- \$2.1 million to restore the historic schooner C.A. Thayer;
- \$1 million Park Access and Trails in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area;
- \$591,000 for the International Museum of Women;
- \$38,000 to design and complete the San Francisco Filipino Cultural Center; and
- \$300,000 to help convert the San Francisco Old Mint into the City's first official history museum.

Listening to our Veterans and our Faith Community



Rep. Pelosi discussed veterans' issues at a recent meeting with Bay Area veterans (from left to right) Milton Funchess, Rennie Champagne, and Raymond Wong.

As a nation, we must not only show our strength, we must show our greatness. And our greatness flows in part from how we care for those who have served in uniform. In November, I met with 14 leaders of San Francisco's veterans' community to hear their priorities and concerns and to discuss federal issues that impact veterans. The leaders agreed on the need to end the Disabled Veterans Tax and the Survivor Benefit Penalty, to make funding for veterans' health care mandatory, and to improve care of homeless veterans.

That week, I also met with leaders of San Francisco's faith community to discuss ways to work on issues of mutual concern, while maintaining a strict separation of church and state. As we prepare for a new session of Congress, I will work with leaders from many different religions and denominations to further our commitment to ending poverty and homelessness and increasing access to health care.